

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

the Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting
Find us on the web at www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham

Lord, teach us to pray.
Teach us to listen to your voice and to hear your word.
Teach us to offer our hearts to you in love and to know your love.
Teach us to forgive and be forgiven.
Teach us to give our lives in your service and to do your will.
Teach us to pray, and pray in us Lord Jesus. Amen



Christmas Services

Nativity set, & costumes for
your own children

12/12 6pm-8pm Twilight Market Eltham
(with a live donkey)

14/12 10.30am -12.30pm Eltham Town Square

Christmas Eve
Tuesday December 24
5pm Children's Service
10.30pm Christmas Carols
11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Wednesday December 25
9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Council Report

27 November 2019

Vicar Keren chaired the first meeting of the new Parish Council which was held on Wednesday evening, commencing with a shared meal. Sally Petty and Helen Robertson have joined existing Councillors David Tuke, Sandra Brown-Holt, Harry Watson, Betty Cooper, Kathleen Toal, Mandy Stevens & John Humann. Sally agreed to join as Warden, Harry was again nominated as Secretary and John as Treasurer.

Our reading was from Colossians. We affirmed our Parish Council Covenant for how we behave and operate in Council and beyond. There was agreement about the success of the Child Safe Church training run by Vicar Keren. A strategy was accepted to assist those unable to complete the training.

We discussed a suggestion received regarding the scheduling of dates for accepting items to publish in Parish Matters. Another suggestion was to mark the Hearing Loop in the Church.

The Vicar reported on a very positive meeting with our prospective Curate.

Reports were tabled from Treasurer, Communications, Pastoral Care, Property, Do Justice. These prompted further discussion, highlighting the great value of the work done by parishioners working in these subcommittees on behalf of Council. We agreed Council dates for 2020, and closed the meeting with prayer.

John Humann, Churchwarden

Please note that detailed minutes are available if you would like a hard copy, please contact the Parish Office.

Mission Action Team

You may know already that St Margaret's is undergoing "Renewal".

Whether you believe that is a good thing or not, probably depends on your view of what the parish is like right now and what aspects if any need to be renewed. As it happens the Melbourne Anglican diocese fully supports parish renewal and is committing resources to aid the process – your parish assessment funds at work!

The Vicar, wardens and Parish Council have all backed the idea and have formed a Mission Action Team to facilitate the process. The team comprises Vicar Keren, Sandra Brown-Holt, John Humann, Mitzi Tuke, Harry Watson and Diana Warrell. We meet together regularly and also with the two other parishes working on their renewal

program, St Aidan's Parkdale and St Eanswyth's Altona.

So what is Parish Renewal you may ask?

The key prerequisite is to identify a Mission Focus Group, in other words a group of people in our wider community on whom St Margaret's parish needs to focus, so that our mission action can be truly effective.

The last thing we want to do is go off on a tangent with some well-meaning mission, only to find that our "helping" is accidentally hindering progress, or worse still, perpetuating the problem we are trying to solve.

After two workshops and several Mission Action Team meetings this year, we are almost at the point of identifying the target group in the Eltham parish.

If you have any ideas for us, or wish to contribute in any way to this discernment, please speak directly to any of our team. You can even make a written suggestion via our Suggestion Box.

John Humann

We welcome Lachlan James Beresford Constable.



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St Margaret's Day

What a great celebration! Both congregations joining together in worship followed by a superb lunch. We were delighted to welcome Lorel Wall, Community Connector (chaplain) at Greensborough Plaza to tell us about her work. The parish financially support this ministry along with other churches in the area. We also welcomed some of the singers from St Peter's Eastern Hill who lead the sung Eucharist.

Jenny Disney, suggested that we have a food collection to be directed to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. Thank you to all who contributed. Jenny writes:

Saint Margaret of Scotland was known and respected for her lifetime of devout prayer and religious observances. In addition, she was loved by the people for her charitable works, especially in serving orphan children and the poor every day before she ate.

This year St Margaret's actions in giving to people were recognised on her Saint Day. 16 boxes of longlife foods were donated for the refugees and asylum seekers cared for by Asylum Seekers Resource Centre in Footscray.

The photo shows some of the food on the first stage of its journey: being unloaded at the home of a member of Monty Asylum Seekers Support Group.



We were delighted to welcome our Syrian friends Ramez and Luffwalla.

Huge thanks to John (MC), all who brought desserts, to the caterers but mainly to the wonderful team of parishioners who set up (thanks David P) organisers and server (Liz Pryor and Coralie Carew and helpers) and those who cleared up (all who helped). What fun. We were well and truly entertained by Harry, Adrienne and the cast for their play and the musicians for our sing along.



Then followed the lunch and entertainment.



Pics with thanks Harry, Jen and Sally

Goodbye Chris

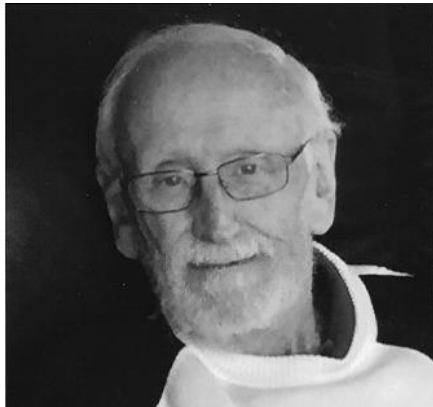
Chris Warrell's funeral, led by Revd Keren, was held at St Margaret's on November 28th. Fr Robert played the accompaniment to the hymns. The service was attended by over 110 mourners. He leaves behind Diana, long-time member of our congregation

and their three children and 8 grandchildren many who have in various ways been at church.

Chris was known to some of the congregation before he joined

St Margaret's. He taught Marg Sandy geography when she was at high school.

He shortly afterwards moved to be a tertiary educator at the University of Melbourne and then to the ASX.(Stock Exchange)



Andrew Warrell spoke on behalf of the family about Chris's history and included his service to St Margaret's, as a Vestry member, coordinator of

sides people, the Planned Giving Program



manager (for many years we always got our envelopes from him as well as progress reminders) and his involvement for nearly a decade as one of the presenters of Children's Time in the Sunday morning service; that involved a session in the hall in parallel with the service Chris made sure we knew that his grand-children called him *Grumpy* a character he was proud to identify with, even if the opposite was the reality. Andrew recounted the last few days, with the story of Chris waiting for him to arrive to say goodbye from Shanghai where Andrew had just landed, at the time when Chris's health took the turn for the worst in hospital. Andrew concluded with the beautiful and moving story of Diana saying goodbye to Chris



Geoff Burrows offered a tribute to Chris' academic and professional career. Chris joined the Department of accounting at Melbourne as assistant-lecturer in 1964, retiring as senior-lecturer in 1990. Chris was a member of Australian Accounting Research Foundation's Current Cost

Accounting Committee and Accounting Standards Board in the 1970s and 1980s. Chris also headed University of Waikato's Inflation Accounting Research Project, where financial statements of 250 enterprises were redrafted in accordance with inflation-accounting proposals. In addition to providing teaching excellence, Chris had roles of Head of Department for Accounting and Associate Dean (budgets) for the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. After leaving the department, Chris joined the ASX as Director – Compliance and Enforcement and served on the Australian Accounting Standards Board (1991–99) where he brought into line several notable companies including those headed by notables such as Bond and Elliot. Chris was an outstanding contributor to accounting research and education, improving the quality of financial reporting in Australia.



His daughter Jenny, helped by Caitlin, offered a tribute to her dad with emphasis on his story telling ability and concluded with an excerpt from a favourite story.

Chris's regular attendance at the 10 am service will be sorely missed, as will be his humour, friendship, integrity and ability to share a good bottle of red wine even in such far away places as Cappadocia. Following the piper led farewell seen below there was some wonderful reminiscing in the Hall accompanied by some excellent food and wine (from Chris's cellar). Our thanks Chris for the many blessings you brought to us.

Harry Watson



Save the Date for this special concert

*St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham
present*

*Liminality
A Celtic Christmas*

*Friday
20th Dec
7.00pm*

*Special Guests
The Diamond Creekers*

*St Margaret's Anglican Church
79-81 Pitt Street Eltham*

*Tickets \$25.00 - www.trybooking.com
Refreshments Available Enq. 0429 650571
Proceeds to St Margaret's Music Programme*

Ed this edition: Sally

This is the last PM for 2019 and there will be no edition in January. In future the closing date for articles will always be the 1st Tuesday in the month with publication on the 2nd Sunday each month.

Adrienne and Fr Robert last regular prayer service for 24/7 residents at St Vincent's Care Services



Anglicare News

Dream Stitches In November we were thrilled to receive the equivalent of three suitcases of materials, mainly woollen cloth, from a lady in Croydon. She started a phone conversation with "I do not know you and you do not know me." However, through the grapevine news had travelled that the Auxiliary was collecting materials to give to Dream Stitches in Box Hill. Thank you Val Phayer for spreading the word.

Dream Stitches is the group that helps newly arrived migrants learn to sew clothes. In the hall in the St Aidan's Church in Box Hill.

Ed. Note: Dream Stitches also made the new choir robes for the choir at St Paul's Cathedral.



Siselia at her sewing class.

Anglicare Collection in December 15th to mid January will be for the Box Hill Sudanese Homework group. This is now run by two young ladies who had started helping when they were completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award at secondary school. The collection of mainly school equipment will be similar to the collections we have had in past years.

We would be grateful if parishioners will help the auxiliary in donating (perhaps in the January sales in the supermarkets) Requested items include textas (textas and textas), exercise books, project books, pencils, scissors, rulers (wooden if possible as plastic ones break very easily) erasers and pencil sharpeners, folders.

About 30 young students from 5 to 18 attend the Saturday morning session with the same number of helpers.

Thanking you.

Jenny Disney

At the start of the parish year, we print the Parish Council Covenant and the Parish Code of Conduct for your interest.

PARISH COUNCIL COVENANT 2019-2020

*Making the transforming love of Christ known to all. (Romans 15:13)
(Ephesians 3:18)*

Honesty	We will be truthful and honest in our communication with each other. We will be willing to share our reflections, concerns, observations and ideas with each other.
Loyalty	We will be loyal in our support of one another in discussions with other parish council members and with parishioners. We will avoid allowing ourselves and others to be triangled or divided.
Accord	We will not avoid disagreements and we will be willing to resolve conflict through agreed appropriate processes. We will seek assistance when needed.
Commitment	We will be diligent in providing each other with information and other resources that are needed to fulfil our role. We will be mindful of the expectations clergy and the parish have of us in our position. We will be committed to thoughtful and participatory decision making.
Regularity	We will be intentional in giving appropriate priority to parish council meetings.
Prayer	We will pray regularly for our ministry team, their families, for each other and for the growth and health of the parish.
Learning	We will be purposeful in encouraging and stimulating each other to learn, grow and explore new ideas together.
Affirmation	We will affirm the value of having different personalities, life experiences and faith journeys. We will respect and accept each other and learn to serve alongside each other.
Confidentiality	We will keep confidential anything of a personal nature that is disclosed in a meeting (including the attribution of individual comments made in the course of a debate).
Encouragement	We will seek to encourage and affirm one another in the service of God and this parish.
Respect	We will celebrate our real differences, and engage in robust dialogue.
Decision-making	We will make space for the Spirit to breathe through our decisions. We will make decisions collaboratively, seeking a common mind.
Awareness	We will engage with deep listening, attentive to both our needs and the needs of others, with mindfulness. We will strive to be present in the moment, recognising the gift of the presence of others, and our own gift of presence.
Responsibility	We will follow through on the commitments we make, maintaining confidentiality, loyalty, and expecting mutual accountability.
Inspiring	We will take responsibility for communicating our trust and hope that God has a future for us, and for putting what God is calling us to do into action.

That sheep may safely graze...



Walter Withers, Sheep grazing among trees at Heidelberg (1890)

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me (John 10:27)

Being a community:

We value the wellbeing of others.

We encourage each other to participate in the life of the church.

We consider the impact of our behaviour on others.

Relating:

We treat each other with respect and dignity, irrespective of ability, gender, sexuality, race, age or contribution to the church.

We act with integrity and honesty in our interactions with each other.

Communicating:

We communicate respectfully with others, and not in a way that threatens, belittles or humiliates.

We speak with integrity and honesty, and refrain from speculation and gossip.

Difference:

We respect those who are different from us and not isolate or ridicule them.

We listen to and seek to understand the beliefs, opinions and practices of others, even when we do not share their views.

Conflict

We accept responsibility for our part in a conflict.

We are willing to play our part in resolving a conflict.

Based on *"Being Together: expectations of behaviour in our church community"* – Developed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Australia, adapted for our use in our Community, St Margaret's in Eltham.